

THE
GENUINE ACCOUNT,
OF THE
TRIAL,
OF
EUGENE ARAM;
For the MURDER of
DANIEL CLARK,

Late of *Knaresbrough*, in the County of YORK;
Who was convicted at YORK Assizes, *August 3,*
1759, before the Honourable WILLIAM NOEL,
Esq; one of His Majesty's Justices of the Court
of *Common Pleas*.

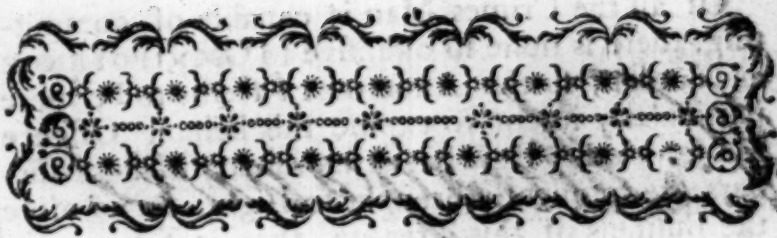
To which, after a short Narration of the Fact, is prefixed,
An Account of the remarkable Discovery of the Human
Skeleton at St. ROBERT'S CAVE, where it had lain up-
wards of Thirteen Years.—A Detail of all the Judicial
Proceedings, from the Time of the Bones being found,
to the Commitment of RICHARD HOUSEMAN, EU-
GENE ARAM, and HENRY TERRY, to *York Castle*.—
The Depositions of ANNA ARAM, PHILIP COATES,
JOHN YATES, &c.—The Examination and Confessi-
on, of RICHARD HOUSEMAN.—The apprehending of
EUGENE ARAM, at *Lynn*, in *Norfolk*:—With his Ex-
amination and Commitment. --- To which are added,
The remarkable Defence he made on his Trial:—His own Ac-
count of himself, written after his Condemnation:—With
the Apology, which he left in his Cell, for the Attempt he
made on his own Life.

All taken immediately from the Original DEPOSITIONS,
PAPERS, &c.

The FOURTH EDITION.

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A Full and Genuine

A C C O U N T OF THE

MURDER of DANIEL CLARK, of
Knaresbrough; with the LIFE,
&c. of EUGENE ARAM.

I F we consider the whole History of DIVINE PROVIDENCE in this World, we shall find Sin and Punishment interwoven in the same Piece. If Sin appears upon the Stage, Punishment waits behind the Curtain. Yet, for certain wise Ends, Almighty God often forbears the Punishment of Sinners in this Life: Notwithstanding, should he suffer them all to go in Peace to their Graves, and to pass out of this Life with Impunity, it might stagger Men's Belief of his particular Providence, and make them ready to say with the Wicked, in PSALM xciv. *The Lord seeth not, neither doth the God of Jacob regard.*

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Of all the Crimes Man is capable of committing, there is none so offensive to OMNIPOTENCE as Murder; so the ALMIGHTY seems to be more particularly intent to expose this heinous Offence to Mankind. By what extraordinary Means Murders are frequently brought to Light, is no more the Business of this Treatise, than as it may concern the following remarkable Discovery of the Murder of *Daniel Clark*.

Daniel Clark was born in *Knaresbrough*, of reputable Parents, where he lived, and followed the Business of a Shoemaker. We shall pass over those Things in his Life which have no Regard to the Affair we treat of, and content ourselves with observing, That, in or about the Month of *January*, 1744-5, he married a Wife, with a Fortune of 200*l.* or upwards; and being then in very good Credit in *Knaresbrough*, it is presumed a Scheme was laid by *Eugene Aram*, then a School-master in that Town, and *Richard Houseman*, a Flax-dresser, to defraud several Persons of great Quantities of Goods and Platé, and that *Clark* should be the Man to carry these Schemes into Execution; for, as he then lived in very good Credit, and was lately married, he was the properest Person for the intended Purpose: Accordingly *Clark*, for some few Days, went to several Persons in and about *Knaresbrough*, and took up great Quantities of Linen and Woollen-drapery Goods, under Pretence, that, as he was lately married, he wanted not only Clothes to appear in on the Occasion, but also Table and Bed-linen; in which he succeeded so well, that he got Goods of that Kind to a considerable Amount. After this, he went to several Inn-keepers, and Others, desiring to borrow a Silver Tankard of one,

a Pint of another, and the like, alledging that he was to have Company that Night, and should be glad of the Use of them at Supper: and, in Order to give a Colour to this his Story, he got of the Inn-keepers (of whom he so borrowed the Plate) Ale, and other Sorts of Liquors*: This was on the 7th of February 1744-5.

Some suspicious Circumstances appearing that Night and the following Morning, caused a Rumour in the Town, that *Clark* was gone off; and upon Enquiry, it could not be learnt what was become of him. Search was immediately made for the Goods and Plate he had got, when some Part of the Goods were found at *Houfeman's*, and another Part thereof, as some Velvets, &c. was dug up in *Aram's* Garden; but, as no Plate was found, it was then concluded *Clark* was gone off with that: Upon which, the strictest Enquiry was made after him, by sending People out into several Parts, and advertising him in the publick Papers, &c. but all to no Purpose.

From the above Circumstances, *Aram* was suspected of being an Accomplice with *Clark*; upon which a Process was granted, from the Steward of the Honour of *Knaresbrough*, to arrest him for a Debt due to one Mr. *Norton*, which was done with

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* Among other Goods, he got the following, viz. Three Silver Tankards; Four Silver Pints; One Silver Milk-pot; One Ring, Set with an Emerald and two Brilliant Diamonds; another with three Rose Diamonds; a Third with an Amethyst in the Shape of a Hart, and Six plain Rings; Eight Watches; Two Snuff-boxes; Chambers's Dictionary, 2 Vols. Folio; Pope's Homer, 6 Vols. bound.

a View to detain *Aram* until such Time as a Warrant could be had from a Justice of Peace, to take him up for being concerned along with *Clark*, in defrauding People of their Plate, &c. Contrary to the Expectation of every Person in Town, he (being then esteemed very poor) paid what he was arrested for, and produced a large Sum of Money, and in a few Days paid off a considerable Mortgage upon his House in *Bondgate*, near *Ripon*. Soon after his Releasement he left the Town of *Knarsbrough*, and was not heard of with any Certainty until the Month of *June*, 1758, when he was found to be at *Lynn*, in *Norfolk*.

Aram's Departure from *Knarsbrough* seems to have put a Stop to any further Examination into this Affair; for nothing was effectually discovered, touching *Clark's* being murdered, until the 11th of *August*, 1758, (which was upwards of Thirteen Years, from the Time of *Clark's* being missing) when it happened that a Labourer, employed in digging for Stone to supply a Lime-kiln, at a Place called *Thistle-hill*, near *Knarsbrough*, having, at the Edge of the Cliff, dug about half a Yard, and half a Quarter deep, found an Arm-bone, and the small Bone of the Leg of an Human Skeleton. In digging forward, he discovered all the rest of the Bones belonging to the Body, which, by the Position of it, seemed to have been put in double, as the Bones were all entire. This remarkable Accident being rumoured in the Town of *Knarsbrough*, gave Reason for a Suspicion that *Daniel Clark* had been murdered and buried there; and the rather, as there had been no other Person missing thereabouts, to any one's Knowledge, for

sixty

sixty Years and upwards. The Strangeness of the Event excited People's Curiosity to enquire strictly into it: Upon which the Coroner was sent for, and an Inquisition taken thereon. The Wife of *Eugene Aram*, who had before frequently given Hints of her Suspicion that *Daniel Clark* was murdered, was now examined by the Coroner and the Jury, as to what she knew concerning *Clark*. She said, "*Daniel Clark* was an intimate Acquaintance of her Husband's; and that they had frequent Transactions together before the 8th of February, 1744-5, and that *Richard Houselman* was often with them: Particularly, That, on the 7th of February, 1744-5, about six o'Clock in the Evening, *Aram* came Home when she was washing in the Kitchen; upon which he directed her to put out the Fire, and make one above Stairs: She accordingly did so. About Two o'Clock in the Morning on the 8th of February, *Aram*, *Clark*, and *Houselman*, came to *Aram's* House, and went up Stairs to the Room where she was: They staid about an Hour. Her Husband asked her for a Handkerchief for *Dickey* (meaning *Richard Houselman*) to tie about his Head: She accordingly lent him one. Then *Clark* said, *It will soon be Morning, and we must get off*. After which, *Aram*, *Houselman* and *Clark* all went out together: That, upon *Clark's* going out, she observed him take a Sack or Wallet upon his Back, which he carried along with him: Whether they went she could not tell. That about Five o'Clock the same Morning, her Husband and *Houselman* returned, and *Clark* did not come with them. Her Husband came up Stairs, and desired to have a Candle, that he

" might

“ might make a Fire below. To which she ob-
 “ jected, and said, *There was no Occasion for two*
 “ *Fires, as there was a good one in the Room above,*
 “ *where she then was.* To which Aram, her Hus-
 “ band, answered, *Dickey* (meaning *Richard House-*
 “ *man*) *was below, and did not chuse to come up Stairs:*
 “ Upon which she asked (*Clark* not returning with
 “ them) *What they had done with Daniel?* To this
 “ her Husband gave no Answer; but desired her
 “ to go to Bed, which she refused; and told him,
 “ *They had been doing something bad.* Then Aram
 “ went down with the Candle. She being desirous
 “ to know what her Husband and *Houfeman* were
 “ doing, and being about to go down Stairs, she
 “ heard *Houfeman* say to Aram, *She is coming.*
 “ Her Husband replied, *We'll not let her.* *Houfe-*
 “ *man* then said, *If she does, she'll tell. What can*
 “ *she tell?* replies Aram, *Poor simple Thing! she*
 “ *knows nothing.* To which *Houfeman* said, *If she*
 “ *tells that I am here, 'twill be enough.* Her Hus-
 “ band then said, *I will hold the Door to prevent her*
 “ *from coming.* Whereupon *Houfeman* said, *Some-*
 “ *thing must be done to prevent her telling,* and press-
 “ ed him to it very much; and said, *If she does not*
 “ *tell now, she may at some other Time.* No, said
 “ her Husband, *We will coax her a little until her*
 “ *Passion be off, and then take an Opportunity to shoot*
 “ *her:* Upon which, *Houfeman* seemed satisfied,
 “ and said. *What must be done with her clothes?*
 “ Whereupon they both agreed, That they would
 “ let her lie where she was shot in her Clothes.
 “ She hearing this Discourse, was much terrified,
 “ but remained quiet, until near Seven o'Clock in
 “ the same Morning, when Aram and *Houfeman*
 “ went out of the House. Upon which, Mrs.

“ Aram

“ *Aram* coming down Stairs, and seeing there had
 “ been a Fire below, and all the Ashes taken from
 “ out of the Grate, she went and examined the
 “ Dunghill; and perceiving Ashes of a Different
 “ Kind to lie upon it, she searched amongst them,
 “ and found several Pieces of Lincn and Woollen
 “ Cloth, very near burnt, which had the Appearance
 “ of belonging to Wearing Apparel. When
 “ she returned into the House from the Dunghill,
 “ she found the Handkerchief she had lent *Houfeman*
 “ the Night before; and looking at it, she
 “ found some Blood upon it, about the Size of a
 “ Shilling: Upon which she immediately went to
 “ *Houfeman*, and shewed him the Pieces of Cloth
 “ she had found; and said, *She was afraid they*
 “ *had done something bad to Clark.* But *Houfeman*
 “ then pretended he was a Stranger to her Accu-
 “ sation, and said, *He knew nothing what she*
 “ *meant.* From the above Circumstances, she be-
 “ lieves *Daniel Clark* to have been murdered by
 “ *Richard Houfeman* and *Eugene Aram*, on the 8th
 “ of February, 1744-5.”

Mr. Phillip Coates, of *Knarsbrough*, Brother-in-
 law to *Daniel Clark*, was then examined by the
 Coroner; who said, “ He knew *Daniel Clark* from
 “ a Child; and that he was with him on the 7th
 “ of February, 1744-5, about Nine o’Clock at
 “ Night, and that *Clark* promised to call upon
 “ him in the Morning: But he not calling, he
 “ went to *Clark’s* House, about Nine o’Clock in
 “ the Morning. After enquiring for him there,
 “ *Clark’s* Maid told him he was gone to *Newall*
 “ to his Wife. On the 10th of February, Mr.
 “ Coates went to *Newall* to seek *Clark*, but could
 “ not

“ not hear of him, nor ever did, tho’ he had been
 “ advertised for some Time. That a Week or
 “ ten Days before Clark was missing, he received
 “ a large Sum of Money; and that no Money
 “ was remaining at his House after he was miss-
 “ ing.”

Several other Witnesses were examined by the
 Coroner, affirming *Eugene Aram*, and *Richard*
Housman, to be the last Person seen with *Clark*,
 especially on the Night of the 7th of *February*,
 1744-5, being the Night before *Clark* was missing,
 and other particular Circumstances, which, to
 avoid Repetition, will be shown at large when we
 come upon the Trial. We shall only add that of
 Mr. *John Yeates*, a Barber, in *Knaresbrough*, who
 said, “He knew *Daniel Clark*, and the last Time
 “ he saw him, was then about thirteen or four-
 “ teen Years ago, and that he had been missing
 “ ever since. Some Time after which, as he,
 “ Mr. *Yeates*, was going over *Thistle-hill*, near
 “ the Rock, he observed a Place to be fresh dug
 “ and oblong; he presumed it might contain a
 “ Boy of about twelve Years of Age; that he
 “ had seen the Place where the Bones of a De-
 “ ceased Man were found, and said it was the
 “ same he saw so fresh dug up.”

Barbara Leetham, of *Knaresbrough*, Widow, gave
 in the same Kind of Evidence.

Mr. *Higgins* and Mr. *Locock*, of *Knaresbrough*,
 Surgeons, upon breaking a Thigh-bone of the
 Skeleton, and viewing it, gave it as their Opini-
 on.

nion that the Body might have lain in the Ground about thirteen or fourteen Years.

These Testimonies were given before the Inquest in the Manner related, and *Houfeman*, by the Coroner's Order, being present, it was observed that he seem'd very uneasy; discovering all the Signs of Guilt, such as trembling, turning pale, and faltering in his Speech: This, with the strong Circumstances given by Mrs. *Aram*, &c. gave a Suspicion that he must have been concerned in the Murder of *Clark*, though he gave no Account of the Matter, and denied that he knew any Thing concerning the Murder.

Few Men guilty of so heinous a Crime as Murder can conceal it. By some Circumstance or other, the Truth will break forth, and their own unfaithful Tongues will betray them.

Upon the Skeleton's being produced, *Houfeman*, at the Coroner's Request, took up one of the Bones; and, in his Confusion, drop this unguarded Expression, *This is no more Dan Clark's Bone, than it is mine!* From which it was concluded, That if *Houfeman* was so certain that the Bones before him were not *Dan Clark's*, he could give some Account of him; and being told so, he answered, "That he could produce a Witness who had seen *Daniel Clark* upon the Road two or three Days after he was missing at *Knaresbrough*." Accordingly the Witness (one *Parkinson*) was sent for; who, on being asked the Question, told the Coroner and the Jury, "That he himself had never seen *Daniel Clark* after that Time, viz. the 8th of February, 1744-5; that a Friend of his (*Parkinson's*)
" told

“ told him he had met a Person, like *Daniel Clark*;
 “ but, as it was a snowy Day, and the Person had
 “ the Cape of his Great-coat up, he could not
 “ say, with the least Degree of Certainty, who he
 “ was.”

This, so far from being satisfactory, increased the Suspicion, that *Houfeman* was either the Murderer of *Clark*, or an Accomplice in the Murder: Whereupon the Constable applied to *William Thornton Esq*; who, being informed from the Coroner, of the Depositions taken, granted them a Warrant to apprehend *Houfeman*, and bring him before him. He was accordingly brought and examined: Here he says, “ He was in Company
 “ with *Daniel Clark* the Night before he went off,
 “ which he believes might be on a *Thursday*, in
 “ *February*, 1744-5; that the Reason of his being
 “ then with him, was, upon Account of some
 “ Money (*viz.* 20*l.*) that he had lent *Clark*, which
 “ he wanted to get again of him, and for which he
 “ then gave him some Goods that took up a considerable Time in carrying from *Daniel Clark*’s
 “ House to his, *viz.* from Eleven (the Hour at
 “ which he went to *Clark*, till some Time the next
 “ Morning: That the Goods he took, were Leather, and some Linen-cloth, which, as soon as
 “ he had possessed himself of, and also a Note of
 “ the Prices he was to sell them at, he left *Clark*
 “ in *Aram*’s House, with *Aram* and another Man,
 “ unknown to this Examinant: Who further
 “ saith, That *Aram* and *Clark*, immediately after,
 “ followed him out of *Aram*’s House, and went
 “ into the Market-place with the other unknown
 “ Person, which the Light of the Moon enabled
 “ him

" him to see ; that he does not know what be-
 " came of them after : And utterly disavows
 " that he came back to *Aram's* House that Morn-
 " ing with *Aram* and without *Clark*, as is asserted
 " by Mrs. *Aram*, nor was he with *Aram*, but with
 " *Clark* at *Aram's* House that Night, whither he
 " went to seek him, in order to obtain from him
 " the Note as above ; that when he had lodged
 " the Goods he got at *Clark's* House safely in his
 " own, he went to seek *Clark*, found him at
 " *Aram's* with the unknown Person, and after
 " having procur'd the Note, which was his Er-
 " rand, came away directly, as was before related.
 " He further saith, That he did not see *Clark* take
 " any Wallet, Plate, or Things of Value along
 " with him when they came out of the House
 " the last Time, which was early in the Morning.
 " But admits, That, some Time after *Clark* was
 " missing, *Anna Aram* came to him in a Passion,
 " and demanded Money of him, and said he had
 " Money of her Husband's in his Hands, and pre-
 " tended to shew him some Shreds of Cloth, and
 " ask'd, If he knew what they were ? To which
 " he answer'd, That he did not know. And en-
 " tirely denies that he ever has been charged with
 " the Murder of *Daniel Clark*, till now by *Anna*
 " *Aram*."

Being ask'd, If he chose to sign this Examina-
 tion ? he said, " He chose to wave it for the pre-
 " sent ; for he might have something to add, and
 " therefore desired to have Time to consider of
 " it."

As he chose not to sign this Examination, it was
 presumed that he was conscious he had not declar-
 ed the Truth of the Matter, and Mr. *Thornton*

thought proper to commit him to *York Castle* the Morning following. At *Green-hammerton*, in the Road to *York*, he behaved to his Conductors in such a Manner as to shew that he was concerned in the Murder, or knew of it, and that he was desirous of making a more ample Confession on their Arrival at *York*. Being come to the *Minster* in *Micklegate*, they were acquainted that Mr. *Thornton* was then passing by; *Houfeman* desired he might be called into the House, and in his Presence made the following Confession:

“ That *Daniel Clark* was murdered by *Eugene*
 “ *Aram*, late of *Knaresbrough*, a School-master;
 “ and, as he believes, on *Friday* the 8th of *Febru-*
 “ *ary*, 1744-5, for that *Eugene Aram* and *Daniel*
 “ *Clark* were together at *Aram's* House early that
 “ Morning, (being Moon-light, and Snow upon
 “ the Ground) and that he (*Houfeman*) left the
 “ House, and went up the Street a little before,
 “ and they called to him, desiring he would go a
 “ short Way with them, and he accordingly went
 “ along with them to a Place called *St. Robert's*
 “ *Cave*, near *Grimble-bridge*, where *Aram* and
 “ *Clark* stopp'd, and there he saw *Aram* strike him
 “ several Times over the Breast and Head, and
 “ saw him fall as if he was dead, upon which he
 “ came away and left them: But whether *Aram*
 “ used any Weapon or not to kill *Clark* he could
 “ not tell; nor does he know what he did with
 “ the Body afterwards; but believes that *Aram*
 “ left it at the Mouth of the Cave; for that, see-
 “ ing *Aram* do this, lest he might share the same
 “ Fate he made the best of his Way from him,
 “ and got to the Bridge End; where, looking
 “ back, he saw *Aram* coming from the Cave Side
 which

“ (which is in a private Rock adjoining the River) and could discern a Bundle in his Hand, but did not know what it was ; upon this he hasted away to the Town, without either joining *Aram*, or seeing him again till the next Day, and from that Time to this he never had any private Discourse with him. Afterwards, however, *Houfeman* said that *Clark's* Body was buried in *St. Robert's Cave*, and that he was sure it was then there ; but desired it might remain till such Time as *Aram* should be taken. He added further, that *Clark's* Head lay to the Right, in the Turn at the Entrance of the Cave.” These Words *Houfeman* repeated the Day after to Mr. *Barker* the Constable. *

On *Houfeman's* Commitment to the Castle, proper Persons were appointed to examine *St. Robert's Cave* ; where agreeable to his Confession, was found the Skeleton of a Human Body, the Head lying as he before had said ; upon which an Inquisition was taken by the Coroner.

Houfeman having thus declared that *Clark* was murdered by *Aram*, who, upon Enquiry, was found to be at *Lynn*, in *Norfolk*, Mr. *Thornton*, issued his Warrant to apprehend him, and directed Mr. *John Barker*, and Mr. *Francis Moor*, the Constables of *Knaresbrough*, to Sir *John Turner*, a Justice of Peace in *Lynn*. On their Arrival there they waited on this Gentleman, who indorsed the Warrant ; and *Aram* was apprehended in a School where he was Usher,

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and

* This Confession Mr. *Thornton* gave to *Houfeman* to read over ; and, after he had so done, Mr. *Thornton* asked him if he chose to sign it ; to which he consented ; replying, That it was the Truth, and the real Truth. Upon which he was committed to the Castle.

and conducted to *Yorkshire*. Being brought before Mr. *Thornton*, and examined, he confessed, “ That
 “ he was well acquainted with *Daniel Clark* ; and
 “ to the best of his Remembrance, it was about,
 “ or before, the 8th of *February*, 1744-5 ; but utterly
 “ denied he had any Connection with him
 “ in those Frauds which *Clark* stood charged with
 “ at or before the Time of his Disappearance,
 “ which might be about the 10th of *February*,
 “ 1744-5, when he (*Aram*) was arrested, by Pro-
 “ cess for Debt : That, during the Time of his
 “ being in Custody, he first heard that *Clark* was
 “ missing : That after his Release, he was appre-
 “ hended by a Warrant from a Justice of Peace
 “ for a Misdemeanor ; but, appearing before the
 “ Justice, and the Charge not being made out
 “ against him, he was dismissed : After this he
 “ continued at *Knarshrough* a considerable Time,
 “ without any Molestation ; and then he removed
 “ to *Nottingham*, to spend a few Days with his
 “ Relations ; from whence he went to *London*.
 “ There he resided publicly ’till he came down
 “ to *Lynn*, which was about seven Months before
 “ he was arrested by Warrant, on Suspicion of
 “ being concerned in the Murder of *Daniel Clark*.
 “ He admits that he might be with *Clark* in *Fe-*
 “ *bruary*, 1744-5 ; but does not recollect that he
 “ was at Mr. *Carter*’s who keeps a Public House in
 “ *Knaresbrough*, with a Jew, *Richard Houseman*, a
 “ *Flaxdresser*, and *Daniel Clark*, about Twelve
 “ o’Clock at Night, on the 7th of *February*,
 “ 1744-5 ; nor does he recollect he was in Com-
 “ pany with *Clark* and *Houseman*, after Two
 “ o’Clock in the Morning, at any particular Time
 “ or Place, in *February*, 1744-5, nor at or after
 “ Three

" Three o'Clock in the Morning, nor at *Grimble-*
 " *bridge* ; nor at, or near, a Place call'd *St. Robert's*
 " *Cave* on the 8th of *February*, 1744-5, in the
 " in the Morning, nor does he know any Thing
 " of *Clark's* being murdered ; nor does he recol-
 " lect that he was with *Clark* and *Houfeman* when
 " *Clark* called upon *William Tuton* on the 8th of
 " *February*, 1744-5, in the Morning ; nor does he
 " remember any Thing of a *Maton's Tool* being
 " found in his own House, when he was arrested
 " by a Warrant, 1744-5 ; nor does he remember
 " meeting *Mr. Barnett*, or seeing him in Company
 " with the abovesaid Persons, the 8th of *February*,
 " 1744-5, in the Morning ; nor does he remember
 " that he came Home that Morning at Five
 " o'Clock, with *Houfeman*, and made a Fire for
 " them in his own House, which is asserted by his
 " Wife ; nor does he remember that he had so
 " great a Sum of Money as fifty Guineas about
 " that Time, or pull'd any such Sum out of his
 " Pocket ; nor did he seek to suborn or ask any
 " one Person to say that he had seen *Clark* since
 " the 8th of *February*, 1744-5, who really had not
 " seen him ; but true it was that he has often
 " made Enquiry about him, and he thinks he
 " hath heard some Persons say they have seen him
 " since, and particularly his Brother *Stephen Aram*,
 " but does not recollect any other Person, except
 " another Brother of his, *Henry Aram*, who has
 " said that he saw him ; nor does he know where
 " it was those Brothers say they saw him." The
 Declaration of other Circumstances, and the sign-
 ing this Examination he chose to wave, that he
 might have Time to recollect himself better, and

least any Thing should be omitted, which might hereafter occur to him.

Though, in this Examination, he denies the Murder that was charged upon him by *Houfeman* in his Confession; yet, notwithstanding, Mr. *Thornton* thought proper to commit him; and thereupon made out his Commitment. In Obedience to which, *Barker* and *Moor* were about to convey him to *York Castle*, and had taken him a Mile from Mr. *Thornton's* House, when *Aram* desired to return back to Mr. *Thornton*, having, as he alledged, something of Consequence to impart to him. Accordingly they returned to Mr. *Thornton's*; where *Aram*, upon being a second Time examined, said;

“ That he was at his own House the 7th of February, 1744-5, at Night, when *Richard Houfeman* and *Daniel Clark* came to him with some Plate, and both of them went for more several Times, and came back with several Pieces of Plate, of which *Clark* was endeavouring to defraud his Neighbours: That he could not but observe, that *Houfeman* was all that Night very diligent to assist him, to the utmost of his Power, and insisted that this was *Houfeman's* Business that Night, and not the signing any Note or Instrument, as is pretended by *Houfeman*. That *Henry Terry*, then of *Knarfbrough*, Ale-keeper, was as much concerned in abetting the said Frauds, as either *Houfeman* or *Clark*; but was not now at *Aram's* House, because as it was Market-day, his Absence from his Guests might have occasioned some Suspicion: That *Terry*, notwithstanding, brought two Silver Tankards that Night upon *Clark's* Account, which had been fraudulently obtained: And that *Clark*, for

“ far

“ far from having borrowed 20*l.* of *Houfeman*, to
 “ his Knowledge never borrowed more than 9*l.*
 “ which he had paid again before that Night.

“ That all the *Leather Clark* had, which amount-
 “ ed to a considerable Value, he well knows, was
 “ concealed under Flax in *Houfeman*'s House, with
 “ Intent to be disposed of by little and little, in
 “ order to prevent Suspicion of his being concern-
 “ ed in *Clark*'s fraudulent Practices.

“ That *Terry* took the Plate in a Bag, as *Clark*
 “ and *Houfeman* did the Watches, Rings, and se-
 “ veral small Things of Value and carried them
 “ into the Flat, where they and he (*Aram*) went
 “ together to *St. Robert's Cave*, and beat most of
 “ the Plate flat : It was thought too late in the
 “ Morning, being about Four o'Clock on the 8th
 “ of *February*, 1744-5, for *Clark* to go off so as to
 “ get to any Distance, it was therefore agreed he
 “ should stay there till the Night following, and
 “ *Clark* accordingly staid there all that Day, as he
 “ believes, they having agreed to send him Vic-
 “ tuals, which were carried to him by *Henry Terry*,
 “ he being judged the most likely Person to do it
 “ without Suspicion, for as he was a Shooter he
 “ might go thither under the Pretence of Sporting :
 “ That the next Night, in order to give *Clark*
 “ more Time to get off, *Henry Terry*, *Richard*
 “ *Houfeman*, and himself, went down to the Cave
 “ very early ; but he (*Aram*) did not go into the
 “ or see *Clark* at all ; that *Richard Houfeman* and
 “ *Henry Terry* only went into the Cave, he staying
 “ to watch, at a little Distance on the Outside,
 “ lest any Body should surprize them.

“ That he believes they were beating some
 “ Plate, for he heard them make a noise ; they staid
 “ there

“ there about an Hour, and then came out of the
 “ Cave, and told him. that *Clark* was gone off.
 “ Observing a Bag they had along with them. he
 “ took it in his Hand, and saw that it contained
 “ Plate. On asking why *Daniel* did not take the
 “ Plate along with him? *Terry* and *Houfeman* re-
 “ plied, That they had bought it of him, as
 “ well as the Watches, and had given him
 “ Money for it, that being more convenient for
 “ him to go off with, as lets cumbersome and
 “ dangerous. After which they all three went
 “ into *Houfeman*’s Ware-house, and concealed the
 “ Watches with the small Plate there, but that
 “ *Terry* carried away with him the great Plate:
 “ That afterwards *Terry* told him he carried it to
 “ *How-hill*, and hid it there, and then went into
 “ *Scotland*, and disposed of it: But as to *Clark*,
 “ he could not tell whether he was murdered or
 “ not, he knew nothing of him, only that they
 “ told him he was gone off.”

After he had signed this second Confession he
 was conducted to *York Castle*, where he and *Houfeman*
 remained till the Assizes.

From the above Examination of *Aram* there
 appeared great Reason to suspect *Terry* to be an
 Accomplice in this Black Affair; a Warrant was,
 therefore granted, and he likewise was apprehen-
 ded and committed to the Castle. Bills of Indict-
 ment were found against them: But it appearing
 to the Court, upon Affidavit, that the Prosecutor
 could not be fully provided with Witnesses at that
 Time, the Trial was postponed till *Lammas*
 Assizes.

On the 3d of August, 1759, *Richard Houfeman*
 and *Eugene Aram* were brought to the Bar. *Houfeman*

man was arraigned on his former Indictment, acquitted, and admitted Evidence against *Aram*, who was thereupon arraigned. *Housman* was then called upon, who deposed, " That in the Night between the 7th and 8th of February, 1744-5, about Eleven o'Clock he went to *Aram's* House : That after two Hours, spent in passing to and fro between their several Houses, to dispose of several Goods, and to settle some Notes concerning them, *Aram* proposed first to *Clark* and then to *Housman*, to take a Walk out of Town : That when they came to the Field where St. Robert's Cave is, *Aram* and *Clark* went into it over the Hedge; and when they came within six or eight Yards of the Cave he saw them quarreling : That he saw *Aram* strike *Clark* several Times, upon which *Clark* fell, and he never saw him rise again. that he saw no Instrument *Aram* had, and knew not that he had any : That upon this, without any Interposition or Alarm, he left them and returned Home : That the next Morning he went to *Aram's* House, and asked what Business he had with *Clark* last Night, and what he had done with him ? *Aram* replied not to this Question ; but threatened him, if he spoke of his being in *Clark's* Company that Night ; vowing Revenge either by himself or some other Person, if he mentioned any Thing relating to the Affair.

Peter Moor, (*Clark's* Servant) deposed, " That a little Time before his Disappearing, *Clark* went to receive his Wife's Fortune . That, upon his Return, he went to *Aram's* House, where this Witness then was : Upon *Clark's* coming in, *Aram* said, How do you, Mr. *Clark* ? I'm glad to see you at Home again, pray what Success ? To which

Clark

Clark replied, I have received my Wife's Fortune, and have it in my Pocket, though it was with Difficulty I got it. Upon which *Aram* said to *Clark*, (*Houfeman* being present) Let us go up Stairs: Accordingly they went; upon which this Witness returned Home."

Mr. Beckwith deposed, " That, when *Aram's* Garden was searched, on Suspicion of his being an Accomplice in the Frauds of *Clark*, there were found buried there several Kinds of Goods, bound together in a coarse Wrapper; and, among the Rest, in particular a Piece of Cambrick, which he himself had sold *Clark* a very little Time before."

Thomas Barnet, deposed, " That on the 8th of February, about One in the Morning, he saw a Person come out from *Aram's* House, who had a wide Coat on, with the Cape about his Head, and seemed to shun him; whereupon he went up to him, and put by the Cape of his Great Coat, and perceiving it to be *Richard Houfeman*, wished him a good Night, alias a good Morning.

John Barker the Constable, who executed the Warrant granted by *Mr. Thornton*, and indorced by *Sir John Turner*, deposed, " That, at *Lynn*, *Sir John Turner*, and some others, first went into the School where *Aram* was, the Witness waiting at the Door. *Sir John* asked him, If he knew *Knaresbrough*? He replied, No. And he being further asked, If he had any Acquaintance with one *Daniel Clark*? He denied, That he never knew such a Man. The Witness then entered the School and said, How do you do, *Mr. Aram*, *Aram* replied, How do you do, *Sir*? I don't know you. What! said the Witness, Don't you know me? Don't you remember *Daniel Clark* and you had

had a Spite against me when you lived at Knaresbrough? Upon this he recollected the Witness, and own'd his Residence at Knaresbrough. The Witness then asked him, If he did not know St. Robert's Cave? He answered, Yes. The Witness replied, Aye to your Sorrow. That, upon their Journey to York, *Aram* enquired after his old Neighbours, and what they said of him. To which the Witness replied, That they were much enraged against him for the Loss of their Goods; That upon *Aram's* asking, If it was not possible to make up the Matter? The Witness answered, He believed he might save himself, if he would restore to them what they had lost. *Aram* answered, That was impossible; but he might perhaps find them an Equivalent. *Aram* was then asked by the Judge, If he had any Thing to say to the Witness before him? He replied, "That, to the best of his Knowledge, it was not in the School, but in the Room adjoining to the School, where Sir John Turner and the Witness were, when he first saw them."

The Skull was then produced in Court, on the Left Side of which there was a Fracture, that from the Nature of it could not have been made but by the Stroke of some blunt Instrument; the Piece was beaten inwards, and could not be replaced but from within. Mr. *Lecock*, the Surgeon, who produced it, gave it as his Opinion, That no such Breach could proceed from any natural Decay; that it was not a recent Fracture by the Instrument with which it was dug up, but seemed to be of many Years standing.

After these several Depositions, *Aram* was ask'd what he had to urge in his Behalf, and begg'd that he might be indulged in reading his Defence.

The following is a faithful Copy of it, printed from his own Original, and retaining even its accidental grammatical Inaccuracies.

MY LORD.

I Know not whether it is of Right, or through some Indulgence of your Lordship, that I am allowed the Liberty at this Bar, and at this Time, to attempt a Defence ; incapable, and uninstructed as I am to speak. Since, while I see so many Eyes upon me, so numerous and awful a Concourſe, fixed with Attention, and filled with I know not what Expectancy I labour, not with Guilt, my Lord, but with Perplexity. For having never ſeen a Court but this, being wholly unacquainted with Law, the Customs of the Bar, and all Judiciary Proceedings, I fear I ſhall be ſo little capable of ſpeaking with Propriety in this Place, that it exceeds my Hope, if I ſhall be able to ſpeak at all.

I have heard, my Lord, the Indictment read, wherein I find myſelf charged with the higheſt Crime, with an Enormity I am altogether incapable of ; a Fact, to the Commiſſion of which there goes far more Intenſibility of Heart, more Proſtigation of Morals, than ever fell to my Lot. And nothing poſſibly could have admitted a Preſumption of this Nature, but a Depravity, not inferior to that imputed to me. However, as I ſtand indicted at your Lordſhip's Bar, and have heard what is called Evidence induced in Support of ſuch a Charge, I very humbly ſolicit your Lordſhip's Patience, and beg the Hearing of this reſpectable Audience, while I, ſingle and unſkiltul, deſtitute of Friends, and unaffiſted by Counſel, ſay ſomething perhaps like Argument, in my Defence. I ſhall

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consume but little of your Lordship's Time ; what I have to say will be short, and this Brevity, probably will be the best Part of it : However it is offered with all possible Regard, and the greatest Submission to your Lordship's Consideration, and that of this Honourable Court.

First, My Lord, the whole Tenor of my Conduct in Life, contradicts every Particular of this Indictment. Yet I had never said this, did not my present Circumstances extort it from me, and seem to make it Necessary. Permit me here, my Lord, to call upon Malignity itself, so long and cruelly busied in this Prosecution, to charge upon me any Immorality, of which Prejudice was not the Author. No, my Lord, I concerted not Schemes of Fraud, projected no Violence, injured no Man's Person or Property. My Days were honestly laborious, my Nights intensely studious. And, I humbly conceive, my Notice of this, especially at this Time, will not be thought impertinent, or unseasonable ; but, at least, deserving some Attention : Because, my Lord, that any Person, after a temperate Use of Life, a Series of thinking and acting regularly, and without one single Deviation from Sobriety, should plunge into the very Depth of Profligancy, precipitately and at once, is altogether improbable and unprecedented, and absolutely inconsistent with the Course of Things. Mankind is never corrupted at once ; Villany is always progressive and declines from Right, Step after Step, till every Regard of Propriety is lost, and every Sense of all moral Obligation totally perishes.

Again, my Lord, a Suspicion of this Kind, which nothing but Malevolence could entertain, and Ignorance propagate, is violently opposed by my very Situation at that Time, with Respect to Health : For but a little Space before, I had been confined to my Bed, and suffered much under a very long and severe Disorder, and was not able, for half a Year together, so much as to walk. The Distemper left me indeed, yet slowly and in Part ; but so macerated, so enfeebled, that I was reduced to Crutches ; and was so far from being well about the Time I am charged with this Fact, that I never to this Day perfectly recovered. Could then a Person in this Condition take any Thing into his Head so unlikely, so extravagant ? I, past the Vigour of my Age, feeble and valetudinary, with no Inducement to engage, no Ability to accomplish, no Weapon wherewith to perpetrate such a Fact ; without Interest, without Power, without Motive, without Means.

Besides, it must needs occur to every one, that an Action of this atrocious Nature is never heard of, but, when its Springs are laid open, it appears that it was to support some Indolence, or supply some Luxury, to satisfy some Avarice, or oblige some Malice ; to prevent some real, or some imaginary Want : Yet I lay not under the Influence of any one of these. Surely, my Lord, I may, consistent with both Truth and Modesty, affirm thus much ; and none who have any Veracity, and knew me, will ever question this.

In the *second* Place, the Disappearance of *Clark* is suggested as an Argument of his being dead : But the Uncertainty of such an Inference from that, and the Fallibility of all Conclusions of such

a Sort, from such a Circumstance, are too obvious; and too notorious to require Instances : Yet, superceding many, permit me to produce a very recent one, and that afforded by this Cattle.

In *June, 1757, William Thompson*, for all the Vigilance of this Place, in open Day-light, and double-ironed, made his Escape ; and, notwithstanding an immediate Enquiry set on Foot, the strictest Search, and all Advertisements, was never seen or heard of since. If then *Thompson* got off unseen, through all these Difficulties, how very easy was it for *Clark*, when none of them opposed him? But what would be thought of a Prosecution commenced against any one seen last with *Thompson*?

Permit me, *next*, my Lord, to observe a little upon the Bones which have been discovered. It is said, which perhaps is saying very far, that these are the Skeleton of a Man. 'Tis possible indeed it may. But is there any certain known Criterion, which incontestibly distinguishes the Sex in Human Bones? Let it be considered, my Lord, whether the ascertaining of this Point ought not to precede any Attempt to indentify them.

The Place of their Depositum too claims much more Attention than is commonly bestow'd upon it : For, of all Places in the World, none could have mentioned any one, wherein there was greater Certainty of finding Human Bones, than an Hermitage ; except he should point out a Church-yard. Hermitages Time past, being not only Places of religious Retirement, but of Burial too : And it has scarce or never been heard of, but that every Cell, now known, contains, or contained, these Relicts of Humanity ; some mutilated, and some entire. I do not inform, but give me Leave to remind, your Lordship, that here sat solitary

Sanctity, and here the Hermit, or the Anchorite hoped that Repose for their Bones, when dead, they here enjoyed when living.

All this while, my Lord, I am sensible this is known to your Lordship, and many in this Court better than I. But it seems necessary to my Case that others, who have not at all, perhaps, adverted to things of this Nature, and may have Concern in my Trial, should be made acquainted with it. Suffer me then, my Lord, to produce a few of many Evidences, that these Cells were used as Repositories of the Dead, and to enumerate a few, in which Human Bones have been found, as it happened in this Question; lest, to some, that Accident might seem extraordinary, and, consequently, occasion Prejudice.

1. The Bones, as was supposed, of the *Saxon*, *St. Dubritius*, were discovered buried in this Cell at *Guiscliff* near *Warwick*, as appears from the Authority of *Sir William Dugdale*.

2. The Bones, thought to be those of the Anchorite *Rosia*, were but lately discovered in a Cell at *Roxton*, entire fair, and undecayed, though they must have lain interred for several Centuries, as is proved by *Dr. Stukely*.

3. But our own County, nay, almost this Neighbourhood, supplies another Instance: For in *January*, 1747, was found by *Mr. Stovin*, accompanied by a Reverend Gentleman, the Bones in Part, of some Recluse, in the Cell at *Lindholm* near *Hatfield*: They were believed to be those of *William of Lindholm*, a Hermit, who had long made this Cave his Habitation.

4. In *February*, 1744, Part of *Woburn*, Abbey being dilled down, a large Portion of a Corpse

appeared, even with the Flesh on, and which bore cutting with a Knife; though it is certain this had laid above 200 Years, and how much longer is doubtful; for this Abbey was founded in 1145, and dissolved in 1538 or 9.

What would have been said, what believed, if this had been an Accident to the Bones in Question?

Farther, my Lord, it is not yet out of living Memory, that a little Distance from *Knaresbrough*, in a Field, Part of the Manor of the Worthy and Patriot Baronet, who does that Borough the Honour to represent it in Parliament, were found, in digging for Gravel, not one Human Skeleton only but five or six deposited Side by Side, with each an Urn placed at its Head, as your Lordship knows was usual in ancient Interments.

About the same Time, and in another Field, almost close to this Borough, was discovered also, in searching for Gravel, another Human Skeleton; but the Piety of the same worthy Gentleman ordered both the Pits to be filled up again, commendably unwilling to disturb the Dead.

Is the Invention of these Bones forgotten, then, or industriously concealed, that the Discovery of those in Question may appear the more singular and extraordinary? Whereas, in Fact, there is nothing extraordinary in it. My Lord, almost every Place conceals such Remains. In Fields, in Hills in Highway Sides, in Commons, lie frequent and unsuspected Bones. And our present Allotments for Rest for the Departed, is but of some Centuries.

Another Particular seems not to claim a little of your Lordship's Notice, and that of the Gentlemen of the Jury; which is, that perhaps no Ex-

ample occurs of more than *one* Skeleton being found in *one* Cell; and in the Cell in Question was found but *one*; agreeable, in this, to the Peculiarity of every other known Cell in *Britain*. Not the Invention of one Skeleton, then, but of two would appeared suspicious and uncommon.

But then, my Lord, to attempt to indentify these, when even to indentify living Men sometimes has proved so difficult, as in the Case of *Perkin Warbeck* and *Lambert Symnel* at home, and of *Don Sebastian* abroad, will be looked upon, perhaps, as an Attempt to determine what is indeterminate. And I hope too it will not pass unconsidered here, where Gentlemen believe with Caution, think with Reason, and decide with Humanity, what Interest the Endeavour to do this is calculated to serve, in assigning proper Personality to those Bones, whose particular Appropriation can only appear to eternal Omnipotence.

Permit me, my Lord, also, very humbly to remonstrate, that, as Human Bones appear to have been the inseparable Adjuncts of every Cell, even any Person's naming such a Place at Random as containing them, in this Case, shews him rather unfortunate than conscious prescient, and that these Attendants on every Hermitage only accidentally concurred with this Conjecture. A mere casual Coincidence of *Words* and *Things*.

But it seems another Skeleton has been discovered by some Labourer, which was full as confidently averred to be *Clark's* as this. My Lord, must some of the Living, if it promotes some Interest, be made answerable for all the Bones that Earth has concealed, and Chance exposed? And might not a Place where Bones lay be mentioned
by

by a Person by Chance, as well as found by a Labourer by Chance? Or, is it more criminal accidentally to *name* where Bones lie, that accidentally to *find* where they lie?

Here too is a human Skull produced, which is fractured; but was this the *Cause*, or was it the Consequence of Death; was it owing to Violence, or was it the Effect of natural Decay? If it was Violence, was that Violence before or after Death? My Lord in *May*, 1732 the Remains of *William* Lord Archbishop of this Province were taken up, by Permission, in this Cathedral, and the Bones of the Skull were found broken; yet certainly he died by no Violence offered to him alive, that could occasion that Fracture there.

Let it be considered, my Lord, that, upon the Dissolution of Religious Houses, and the Commencement of the Reformation, the Ravages of those Times both affected the living and the dead. In Search after imaginary Treasures, Coffins were broken up, Graves and Vaults dug open, Monuments ransack'd, and Shrines demolished; your Lordship knows that these Violations proceeded so far, as to occasion Parliamentary Authority to restrain them; and it did, about the Beginning of the Reign of *Queen Elizabeth*. I entreat your Lordship suffer not the Violences, the Depredations, and the Iniquity of those Times to be imputed to this.

Moreover, what Gentleman here is indorant that *Knaresbrough* had a Castle, which, tho' now a Ruin, was once considerable both for its Strength and Garrison. All know it was vigorously besieged by the Arms of the Parliament At which Siege, in Sallies, Conflicts, Flights, Pursuits, many
fell.

fell in all the Places round it ; and where they fell were buried : For every Place, my Lord, is Burial Earth in War ; and many, questionless, of these rest yet unknown, whose Bones Futurity shall discover.

I hope, with all imaginable Submission, that what has been said will not be thought impertinent to this Indictment ; and that it will be far from the Wisdom, the Learning, and the Integrity of this Place, to impute to the Living what Zeal in its Fury may have done ; what Nature may have taken off, and Piety interred ; or what War alone may have destroyed, alone deposited.

As to the Circumstances that have been raked together, I have nothing to observe ; but that all Circumstances whatsoever are precarious, and have been but too frequently found lamentably fallible ; even the strongest have failed. They may rise to the utmost Degree of Probability ; yet are they but Probability still. What need I name to your Lordship the two *Harrisons* recorded in Dr. *Howel*, who both suffered upon Circumstances, because of the sudden Disappearance of their Lodger, who was in Credit, had contracted Debts, borrowed Money, and went off unseen, and returned again a great many Years after their Execution. Why name the intricate Affair of *Jaques du Moulin* under King *Charles II.* related by a Gentleman who was Council for the Crown. And why the unhappy *Coleman*, who suffered innocent though convicted upon positive Evidence, and whose Children perished for Want, because the World uncharitably believed their Father guilty. Why mention the Perjury of *Smith*, incautiously admitted King's Evidence ; who, to screen himself

self, equally accused *Fainloth* and *Loveday* of the Murder of *Dunn*; the first of whom in 1749, was executed at *Winchester*; and *Loveday* was about to suffer at *Reading*, had not *Smith* been proved perjured, to the Satisfaction of the Court, by the Surgeon of the *Gosport* Hospital.

Now, my Lord, having endeavoured to shew that the whole of this Process is altogether repugnant to every Part of my Life; that it is inconsistent with my Condition of Health about that Time; that no rational Inference can be drawn, that a Person is dead who suddenly disappears; that Hermitages were the constant Repositories of the Bones of the Recluse; that the Proofs of this are well authenticated; that the Revolutions in Religion, or the Fortune of War, has mangled, or buried, the Dead; the Conclusion remains, perhaps, no less reasonably than impatiently wished for. I, last, after a Year's Confinement, equal to either Fortune, put myself upon the Candor, Justice, and the Humanity of your Lordship, and upon yours, my Countrymen, Gentlemen of the Jury.

It might have been expected that the Prisoner, in his Defence, should have remark'd upon *Houfeman's* Testimony, which certainly in many Instances, lay open to him; But this Defence was drawn up long before his Trial, and he seems not ever to have entertain'd a Suspicion of the Fidelity of his Confederate. The Judge stated the Evidence very particularly to the Jury; and, after having observed how the Testimonies of the other Deponents confirmed that of *Houfeman*, he proceeded to remark upon *Aram's* Defence, in order to.

to shew that he alledged nothing that could invalidate the positive Evidence against him. Without leaving the Court the Jury presently found the Prisoner guilty, During the whole Trial he behaved with great Steadiness and Decency. He heard his Conviction and received his Sentence with profound Composure, and left the Bar with a Smile in his Countenance. Whether this was the Expression of Indignation, or the Affectation of Heroism, we pretend not to determine.

At the Request of the Clergyman, who, by his own particular Desire, attended him after his Condemnation, *Aram* wrote the following short Account of his Family, and his Life, some Time in the Interval between his Sentence and the Night that preceded his Execution. So far as it is given to the Public, it is given with the same scrupulous Exactness with which his Defence has been printed. It must, however, be declared, That as we suppress'd a Part of his second Confession, because it reflected on some Characters that stand unimpeached, so we have also suppress'd a Part of this Performance, as being extremely injurious to the Integrity and Candor of the Court.

— *Anima fugit indignata sub Umbras.*

REVEREND SIR, *

I Always believed any Relation of my Life of no Manner of Importance or Service to the Public, and I never either had any Temptation or Desire to appear in Print. The Publications ushered to the World, which I ever had little Concern

for,

* The Rev. Mr. Collins, of *Knaresbrough*.

for, and have as little now, by Persons in my Situation, always appeared to me only calculated for the Advantage of the Press, and for the Amusement of a very idle Curiosity. But to oblige you, and not to forget my Promise, I will recollect as many Particulars as I can, upon so sudden a Notice, and the small Pittance of Time which I have left me will allow.

I was born at *Ramskill*, a little Village in *Nether-Dale*, in 1704. My maternal Relations had been substantial and reputable in that *Dale*, for a great many Generations: My Father was of *Nottinghamshire*, a Gardiner of great Abilities in Botany, and an excellent Draughtsman. He served the Rt. Rev. the Bishop of *London*, Dr. *Compton*, with great Approbation; which occasioned his being recommended to *Newby*, in this County to Sir *Edward Blackett*, whom he served in the Capacity of a Gardiner, with much Credit to himself, and Satisfaction to that Family, for above 30 Years. Upon the Decease of that Baronet, he went and was retained in the Service of Sir *John Ingilby*, of *Ripley*, Bart. where he died; respected when living and lamented when dead.

My Father's Ancestors were of great Antiquity and Consideration in this County, and originally *British*. Their Surname is local; for they were formerly Lords of the Town of *Haram*, or *Aram*, on the Southern Banks of the *Tees*, and opposite to *Stockburn* in *Bishopric*; and appear in the Records of St. *Mary's* at *York* among many charitable Names, early and considerable Benefactors to that Abbey. They, many Centuries ago, removed from these Parts, and were settled, under the Fee of the Lords *Mowbray* in *Nottinghamshire*, at *Aram*,
or

or *Aram-Park*, in the Neighbourhood of *Newark* upon *Trent*; where they were possessed of no less than three Knights Fees in the Reign of *Edward III.* Their Lands, I find not whether by Purchase or Marriage, came into the Hands of the present Lord *Lexington.* While the Name existed in this County, some of them were several Times High-Sheriffs for this County; and one was Professor of Divinity, if I remember right, at *Oxford*, and died at *York.* The last of the Chief of this Family was *Thomas Aram, Esq;* sometime of *Gray's Inn*, and one of the Commissioners of the Salt-Office, under the late Queen *Anne.* He married one of the Co-Heiresses of Sir *John Coningsby*, of *North-Mims*, in *Hertfordshire.* His Seat, which was his own Estate, was at the *Wild*, near *Shenley*, in *Hertfordshire*, where I saw him, and where he died, without Issue.

Many more Anecdotes are contained in my Papers, which are not present; yet these perhaps may be thought more than enough, as they may be considered rather ostentatious than pertinent: But the first was always was far from me.

I was remov'd very young, along with my Mother, to *Skelton* near *Newby*; and thence, at Five or Six Years old, my Father making a little Purchase in *Bondgate*, near *Ripon*, his Family went thither. There I went to School; where I was made capable of reading the Testament, which was all I was ever taught, except, a long Time after, about a Month, in a very advanced Age for that, with the Rev. Mr. *Alcock* of *Burnsal.*

After this, at about Thirteen or Fourteen Years of Age, I went to my Father at *Newby*, and attended him in the Family there, till the Death of
Sir



Sir Edward Blackett. It was here my Propension to Literature first appeared : For being always of a solitary Disposition, and uncommonly fond of Retirement and Books, I enjoyed here all the Repose and Opportunity I could wish. My Study at that Time was engaged in the Mathematics : I know not what my Acquisitions were ; but I am certain my Application was at once intense and unwearied. I found in my Father's Library there, which contained a great Number of Books in most Branches, *Kersey's Algebra* *Leyburn's Cursus Mathematicus*, *Ward's Young Mathematician's Guide* *Harris's Algebra*, &c. and a great many more : But these being the Books in which I was ever most conversant, I remember them the better. I was even then equal to the Management of quadratic Equations, and their geometrical Constructions. After we left *Newby*, I repeated the same Studies in *Bondgate*, and went over all the Parts I had studied before. I believe not unsuccessfully.

Being about the Age of Sixteen, I was sent for to *London*, being thought upon Examination by Mr. *Christopher Blackett*, qualified to serve him as Book-keeper in his Accompting-House. Here after a Year or two's Continuance, I took the Small-Pox, and suffered severely under that Distemper. My Mother was so impatient to see me, that she was very near upon a Journey to *London*, which I by an Invitation from my Father, prevented, by going to her.

At Home, with Leisure upon my Hands, and a new Addition of Authors to these brought me from *Newby*, I renewed not only my mathematical Studies, but begun and prosecuted others, of a different Turn, with much Avidity and Diligence :

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These were Poetry, History, and Antiquities, the Charms of which quite destroyed all the heavier Beauties of Numbers and Lines, whose Applications and Properties I now pursued no longer, except occasionally in teaching.

I was, after some Time employed in this Manner, invited to *Netherdale*, my native Air, where I first engaged in a School; where I married, unfortunately enough for me: For the Misconduct of the Wife which that Place afforded me, has procured me this Place, this Prosecution, this Infamy, and this Sentence.

During my Marriage here, perceiving the Deficiencies in my Education, and sensible of my want of the learned Languages, and propted by an irresistible Covetousness of Knowledge, I commenced a Series of Studies in that Way, and undertook the Tedioufness, the Intricacies, and the Labour of the Grammar; I selected *Lilly* from the rest: All which I got and repeated by Heart. The Task of repeating it all every Day, was impossible, while I attended the School, so I divided it into Portions; by which Method it was pronounced thrice every Week: And this I performed for Years.

Next, I became acquainted with *Camden's Greek Grammar*, which I also repeated in the same manner, *memoriter*. Thus instructed, I entered upon the *Latin Classics*; whose Allurements repaid my Assiduities and my Labours. I remember to have, at first, hung over five Lines for a whole Day; and never, in all the painful Course of my Reading, left any one Passage, but I did, or thought I did, perfectly comprehend it.

After

After I had accurately perused every one of the *Latin* Classics, Historians and Poets, I went through the *Greek* Testament; first, parsing every Word as proceeded; next, I ventured upon *Hesiod, Homer, Theocritus, Heroditus, Thucidides*, and all the *Greek* Tragædians: a tedious Labour was this; but my former Acquaintance with History lessened it extremely; because it threw a Light upon many Passages, which, without that Assistance must have appeared obscure.

In the midst of these Literary Pursuits, a Man and Horse, from my good Friend *William Norton*, Esq; came for me from *Knaresbrough*, along with that Gentleman's Letter, inviting me thither; and accordingly I repaired thither in some Part of the Year 1734, and was, I believe, well accepted and esteemed there. Here, not satisfied with my former Acquisitions, I prosecuted the Attainment of the *Hebrew*; and with indefatigable Diligence. I had *Buxtorff's* Grammar; but that being perplexed or not explicit enough, at least, in my Opinion at that Time, I collected no less than eight or ten different *Hebrew* Grammars; and here one very often supplied the Omissions of others; and this was, I found, of extraordinary Advantage. Then I bought the Bible in the Original, and read the whole *Pentateuch*, with an intention to go through the whole of it, which I attempted but wanted Time.

In April, I think the 18th, 1744, I went again to *London*. [The Reasons shall follow.] Here I agreed to teach the *Latin* and Writing, for the Rev. Mr. *Painblanc*, in *Piccadilly*, which he, along with a Salary, returned, by teaching me *French*; wherein I observed the Pronunciation the most formidable

dable Part, at least to me, who had never before known a Word of it : But this my continued Application every Night or other Opportunity overcame, and I soon became a tolerable Master of *French*. I remained in this Situation two Years and above.

Some Time after this I went to *Hart*, in the Capacity of Writing Master, and served a Gentlewoman there, since dead ; and staid, after that, with a worthy and Reverend Gentleman. I continued here between three and four Years.

I succeeded to several other Places in the South of *England*, and all that while used every Occasion of Improvement. I then transcribed the Acts of Parliament to be registered in Chancery, and after went down to the Free-School at *Lynn*.

From my leaving *Knaresbrough* to this Period is a long Interval, which I had filled up with the farther Study of History and Antiquities, Heraldry, and Botany ; in the last of which I was very agreeably entertained ; there being there so extensive a Display of Nature. I well knew *Turneforte*, *Ray*, *Miller*, *Linnaeus*, &c. I made frequent Visits to the Botanic Garden at *Chelsea* ; and traced Pleasure through a thousand Fields : At last, few Plants, domestic or exotic, were unknown to me. Amidst all this I ventured upon the *Chaldee* and *Arabic* ; and, with a Design to understand them, supplied myself with *Erpenius*, *Chapelhow*, and others : But had not Time to obtain any great Knowledge of the *Arabic* ; the *Chaldee* I found easy enough, because of its Connexion with the *Hebrew*.

I then investigated the *Celtic*, as far as possible, in all its Dialects ; begun Collections, and made Comparisons between that, the *English*, the *Latin*, the

the *Greek*, and even the *Hebrew*. I had made Notes, and compared above Three Thousand of these together, and found such a surprizing Affinity, even beyond any Expectation or Conception, that I was determined to proceed through the whole of all these Languages, and form a comparative Lexicon which I hoped would account for numberless Vocables in Use with us, the *Latins* and *Greeks*, before concealed and unobserved. This, or something like it, was the Design of a Clergyman of great Erudition in *Scotland*: but it must prove abortive, for he died before he executed it, and most of my Books and Papers are now scattered and lost.

Something is expected as to the Affair upon which I was committed, to which I say, as I mentioned in my Examination, That all the Plate of *Knaresbrough*, except the Watches and Rings, were in *Houfeman's* Possession; as for me, I had nothing at all*. My Wife knows that *Terry* had the large Plate, and that *Houfeman* himself took both that and the Watches at my House, from *Clark's* own Hand; and if she will not give this in Evidence for the Town, she wrongs both that and her own Conscience; and if it is not done soon *Houfeman* will prevent her. She likewise knows that *Terry's* Wife had some Velvet; and, if she will, can testify it: She deserves not the Regard of the Town if she will not. That Part of *Houfeman's* Evidence, wherein he said I threatned him, was absolutely false;

* It is generally believed, and upon good Grounds, that *Aram* got all the Money *Clark* had received for his Wife's Fortune, viz. above 160 l. and there were strong Circumstances to prove it; but it was thought unnecessary, as there was sufficient Proof against him without it.

false; for what hindered him, when I was so long absent and far distant? I must need observe another Thing to be Perjury in *Houfeman's* Evidence in which he said, he went Home from *Clark*; whereas he went straight to my House, as my Wife can also testify, if I be not believed.

EUGENE ARAM.

Aram's Sentence was a just one, and he submitted to it with that Stoicism he so much affected; and the Morning after he was condemned, he confessed the Justness of it to two Clergymen, (who had a Licence from the Judge to attend him, by declaring he murdered *Clark*. Being asked by one of them, What his Motive was for doing that abominable Action? He told them, "He suspected *Clark* of having an unlawful Commerce with his Wife; that he was persuaded at the Time when he committed the Murder he did right, but since he has thought it wrong.

After this, *Prav*, says *Aram*, what became of *Clark's* Body, if *Houfeman* went home (as he said upon my Trial) immediately on seeing him fall? One of the Clergymen replied, I'll tell you what became of it, you and *Houfeman* dragged it into the Cave, stripp'd and buried it there; brought away his Cloaths, and burnt them at your own House: To which he assented. He was asked, Whether *Houfeman* did not earnestly press him to murder his Wife, for Fear she should discover the Business they had been about, he hastily replied, He did, and pressed me several Times to do it

This was the Substance of what passed with *Aram* the Morning after he was condemned; and as he had promised to make a more ample Confession on the Day he was executed, it was generally believed every

every Thing previous to the Murder would have been disclosed ; but he prevented any further Discovery, by a horrid Attempt upon his own Life. When he was called from Bed to have his irons taken off, he would not rise, alledging he was very weak. On his Examination his Arm appeared bloody ; proper Assistance being called, it was found that he attempted to take away his Life, by cutting his Arm in two Places with a Razor, which he had concealed in the Condemned Hold some Time before. By proper Applications he was brought to himself, and, though weak, was conducted to Tyburn ; where being asked if he had any Thing to say, he answered No. Immediately after he was executed and his Body convey'd to *Knaresbrough-Forest*, and hung in Chains pursuant to his Sentence.

On his Table, in the Cell, was found the following Paper, containing his Reasons for the abovesaid wicked Attempt.

WHAT am I better than my Fathers ? To die is natural and necessary. Perfectly sensible of this I fear no more to die than I did to be born. But the Manner of it is something which should in my Opinion be decent and manly. I think I have regarded both these Points. Certainly Nobody has a better Right to dispose of Man's Life than himself ; and he, not others should determine how. As for any Indignities offered to my Body, or silly Reflections on my Faith and Morals, they are (as they always were) Things indifferent to me. I think, tho' contrary to the common Way of thinking, I wrong no Man by this and hope it is not offensive to that Eternal being that formed me and the World : And as by this I injure no Man, no
Man

Man can be reasonably offended. I solicitously recommend myself to the Eternal and Almighty Being, the God of Nature, if I have done amiss. But perhaps I have not; and I hope this Thing will never be imputed to me. Though I am now stained by Malevolence, and suffer by Prejudice, I hope to rise fair and unblemished. My Life was not polluted, my Morals irreproachable, and my Opinions orthodox.

I slept soundly till Three o'Clock, awak'd, and then writ these Lines :

*Come pleasing Rest, eternal Slumber fall;
Seal mine, that once must seal the Eyes of all;
Calm and compos'd my Soul her Journey takes,
No Guilt that troubles, and no Heart that aches;
Adieu! thou Sun, all-bright like her arise;
Adieu! fair Friends, and all that's good and wise.*

These Lines, found along with the foregoing, were suppos'd to be written by *Aram* just before he cut himself with the Razor.

Notwithstanding he pleads a sovereign Right over himself, in Vindication of this last horrid Crime, and appears, at first View, actuated by Honour and Courage; yet a little Reflection will convince any one, his Motive for such an inhuman Deed was nothing more than the Fear of Shame. That he murdered *Clark* is beyond all Doubt, as he himself voluntarily confessed it; but the Excuse he afterwards made for it is greatly to be inspected, it being at the Expence of the Character of an innocent, industrious, poor Woman, whom he has ever treated in an infamous, inhuman Manner.

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